

***Remarks***

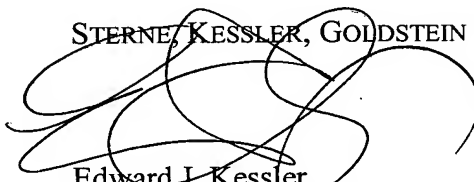
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 14-33 are pending in the application, with 14, 27, 28, and 30 being the independent claims. Claims 1-13, 34, and 35 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. These changes introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant(s) believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Edward J. Kessler  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 25,688

Date: 7/8/03

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600